

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 SAB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11

COME-00 FEA-02 INT-08 TAR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 211558Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5482

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 3317

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET REACTION TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT.

REF: A. GENEVA 307; B. CAIRO 293

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1. SUMMARY: SOVIET REACTION TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN

DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN MUTED AND HAS LARGELY IGNORED U.S. ROLE IN NEGOTIATING ACCORD. GROMYKO, IN JANUARY 19 SPEECH SUMMARIZED IN PRAVDA NEXT DAY, PUT AGREEMENT IN CONTEXT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND CALLED IT STEP OF POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE IF "RADICAL SETTLEMENT" FOLLOWS. WEEKEND PRESS GIVES BARE-BONES ACCOUNT OF ACCORD, PLAYING IT AS FIRST STEP IN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. PRAVDA WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEWER BOLSHAKOV (JANUARY 20) SAYS AGREEMENT MUST BECOME FIRST CONCRETE STEP TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT BUT WARNS THAT ISRAEL IS TRYING TO DELAY SETTLEMENT. PRESS TREATMENT, IN OUR VIEW, SHOWS SOME SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO WAY AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED BUT DOES NOT ADD UP TO SERIOUS SOVIET CONCERN (REF-TELS). END SUMMARY.

2. IN TREATMENT OF ME DURING JANUARY 19 YEREVAN ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP SPEECH GROMYKO SAID AGREEMENT REACHED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM PART OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY IS RESULT OF CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND TALKS BETWEEN PARTIES. AGREEMENT HAS POSITIVE MEANING IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY "RADICAL SETTLEMENT" BASED ON TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND "FULL PROTECTION (OGRAZHDENIE) OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS." COMMENT: GROMYKO REFERENCE TO PROTECTION OF PALESTINIAN LEGITIMATE RIGHTS (REPEATED IN PRAVDA WEEKLY REVIEW) DIFFERS FROM USUAL REFERENCE TO "GUARANTEEING" (OBESPECHENIE) LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS.

3. WEEKEND PRESS ANNOUNCED SIGNING OF KM 101 ACCORD AND CITED WESTERN PRESS ON OUTLINES OF DISENGAGEMENT PROVISIONS (PRAVDA). TASS REPORT IN PRAVDA (JANUARY 20) GIVES OUTLINES OF AGREEMENT TEXT BASED ON MENA VERSION PUBLISHED IN CAIRO JANUARY 19. SEPARATE TASS ITEM JANUARY 20 ALSO REPORTS SADAT-KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE. ARTICLE SAYS SADAT CHARACTERIZED KM 101 AGREEMENT AS TURNING POINT, REPORTS THAT HE EMPHASIZED ME PROBLEM NO LONGER IN DEAD END, AND QUOTES HIM AS SAYING EGYPT WILL NOT AGREE TO HAVING ME SITUATION FROZEN AGAIN. REPORT ALSO CITES SADAT AS SAYING HE WILL NOT TAKE DECISION ON RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WITHOUT CONSULTING OTHER ARAB STATES WHO HAVE BROKEN RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH WASHINGTON. SAME REPORT QUOTES SECRETARY AS DECLARING U.S. WILL DEVOTE EVERY EFFORT TO STABILIZING ME CEASE-FIRE AND ATTAINING SETTLEMENT AND AS SAYING SADAT HAD TOLD HIM ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT MUST FOLLOW ISRAELI-EQYPTIAN AGREEMENT.

4. BOLSHAKOV IN PRAVDA SAYS KM 101 AGREEMENT MUST BECOME FIRST CONCRETE STEP TOWARD FULFILLING SC RESOLU-

TIONS ON ME WHICH PROVIDE FOR "FULL PROTECTION" OF
LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS AND TOTAL ISRAELI WITH-
DRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BOLSHAKOV SAYS IT
APPEARS FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT ISRAEL IS TRYING TO DELAY
SETTLEMENT OF CRISIS AND ITS CONTINUING TO INCREASE TENSION
AND CONDUCT PROVOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY AGAINST SYRIA. ARABS
AND THEIR SUPPORTERS MUST DEVOTE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO
ATTAINING SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, DESPITE DIFFICULTIES
CONNECTED WITH SETTLEMENT ISRAEL CANNOT IGNORE UNIFIED
ARAB WILL, AND DYNAMIC OF DETENTE HAS FORCED PARTISANS
OF POLICY OF FORCE TO YIELD.

COMMENT: PRESS HANDLING DESCRIBED ABOVE SUGGESTS
SOME SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO HIGH LEVEL OF U.S. ACTIVITY IN
ME NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS ALSO SOME TALK AMONG ARAB
DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HERE ABOUT ALLEGED SOVIET CONCERN
OVER CLOSER EGYPTIAN-U.S. TIES. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE IN-
CLINED TO READ EVIDENCE IN PRESS HERE LESS AS SIGN OF
SERIOUS SOVIET DISQUIET THAN AS EFFORT TO BEND RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH PRISM OF THEIR OWN AMOUR-PROPRE AND
THEIR PROPAGANDA NEEDS BEFORE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE.DUBS

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